



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 8, Issue #7

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

28 June 2013

### **Pest Patrol Hotline**

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### **Cotton/Soybean Insect Workshops**

The workshops at the Edisto and Pee Dee RECs were well-attended and successful! Thanks to all who participated, particularly to the agents that helped organize them: Marion Barnes, Joe Varn, Hannah Mikell, Trish DeHond, and David DeWitt.



### **News from Above the Lakes**

No news to report this week. Please send your insect comments to me by Wednesday for inclusion here.

### **News from Below the Lakes**

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported that he was “out and was looking at some cotton [Wednesday]. Everything I looked at that has gotten past being extremely wet looks good. I did happen across some aphids in one field this afternoon in Eastern Orangeburg County.”



I do not get too concerned about aphids unless they are early. The photos above represent an early situation, for sure. Watch areas of fields that show signs of stress from aphids. This early stress on the plant can delay maturity and impact yields under heavy infestations, particularly if it turns dry in July.

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### **News from the Piedmont/Upstate**

No news to report this week. Please send your insect comments to me by Wednesday for inclusion here.

### **Cotton Situation**

As of 24 June 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the cotton crop at 96% planted, slightly behind where we were last year at 99% planted and the 5-yr average of 99% planted. About 8% of the crop has squared, compared with 22% this time last year and the 5-yr average of 20%. Conditions for the cotton crop were described as 1% very poor, 2% poor, 25% fair, 68% good, and 4% excellent. We are now living by afternoon thunderstorms, and soil moisture conditions as a whole for the state were described as 3% short, 88% adequate, and 9% surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### **Cotton Thrips Video**

We put together this video about management options for thrips this season. It shows some of the options compared with untreated controls (no insecticide component - fungicide only). The results were very good, so we documented it: <http://www.clemson.edu/public/psatv/ag/how-to-identify-thrips-in-cotton.html>

### **Soybean Situation**

As of 24 June 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the soybean crop at 84% planted, not far off from where we were last year at 89% and the 5-yr average of 90% planted. About 56% of the soybean crop has emerged, behind where we were last year at 72% and the 5-yr average of 74%. Conditions for the soybean crop were described as 0% very poor, 2% poor, 36% fair, 57% good, and 5% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### **Kudzu Bugs**

We are starting to observe new adults migrating into fields now. This will increase in the next several weeks, indicating that the first generation of the year is leaving its early-season larval host for our soybeans. Treatment decisions should be made with information gathered from each field. All fields are different, and that is especially true for this insect. If you find them in one field at treatment levels, that does not mean they are like that in all of your fields. You should not treat all of your fields the same for this species. Those decisions will need to be made on a field-by-field basis. We are still recommending treatment based on detection of immatures using a sweep net or through organized observations. Our best recommendations are located in a kudzu bug field guide the USB helped us produce last year that is available online at:

<http://digital.turn-page.com/i/87846>

The latest distribution for the kudzu bug in the southeastern USA can be viewed at the link below. **The species has made the jump across the Mississippi River.** Anytime you want to check the map, click on the link below, and you will be taken to the updated map:

<http://maps.bugwood.org/eddmappscustomcounty2.cfm?map=5&legend=bottom&height=600&width=550>

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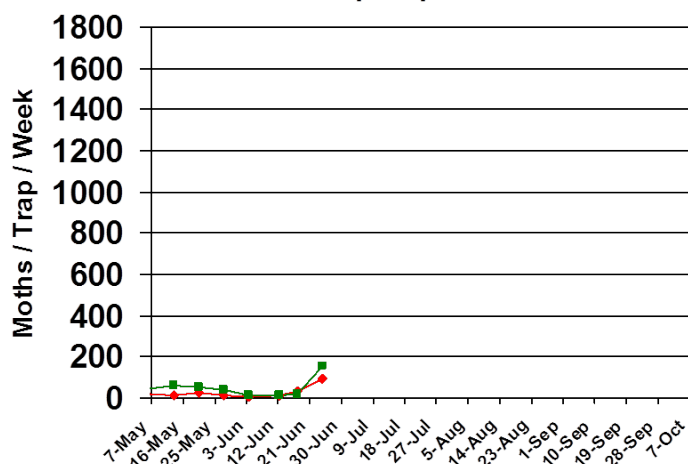
## **Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm**



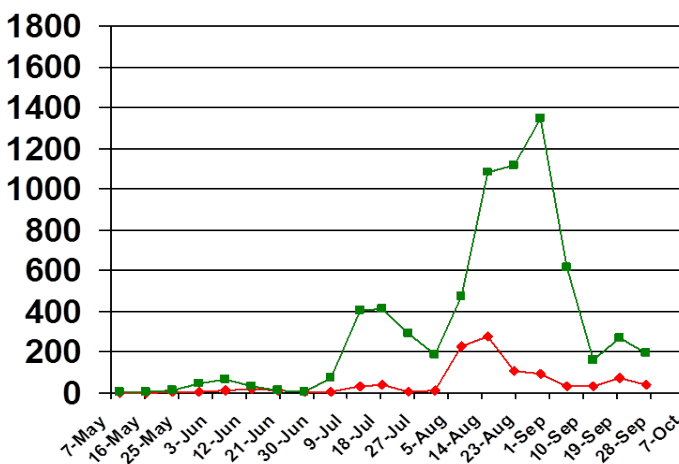
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2012 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2013**



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012**

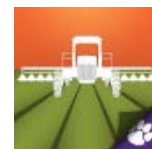


## **Pest Management Handbook - 2013**

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2013 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/>

## **Sprayer Calibration Mobile App**

Download our free mobile app called "Calibrate My Sprayer" that helps check for proper calibration of spraying equipment (available in both iOS and Android formats): <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>



## **Need More Information?**

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest\\_management/newsletters/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html)



Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.  
Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:  
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